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EXAMINER

MA, JOHNNY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2617

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/517,818

Applicant(s)

OZ ET AL

Examiner

Johnny Ma

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,7,8 and 23-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,7,8 and 23-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 23-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 23, 2, 3, 7, 8, 24-27, 29-31, and 34-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grossman et al. (US 5,907,321) in further view of Tsuria (US 5,786,845), Picco et al. (US 6,029,045), and Howe et al. (US 5,892,508).

As to claim 23, note the Grossman et al. reference that discloses a method for transmitting and displaying an interchannel interval image in a cable system. Note, the Grossman et al. reference discloses "downloading from a server selected data sets" wherein "[t]he visual image transmitted from cable headend [server] 12 preferably resides in RAM 44 of subscriber unit 24a. It is stored [downloaded] in RAM 44 by microprocessor 60" (Grossman 6:33-36). The claimed "the selected data sets representing information elements for display to a user during switching events" and "displaying a first one of the information elements in response to initiation of a first switching event" is met by "subscriber unit 24a displays the visual image received from cable headend 12 on television receiver 30 when a user of subscriber unit 24a changes channels using remote control device 20" (Grossman 3:41-45) wherein the channel

Art Unit: 2617

change (first switching event) is “characterized by unavailability of information from the server for display” (Grossman 3:47-55). The claimed “discontinuing the display of the first one of the information elements and displaying the data stream information from the server when it becomes available for such display” is met by “the visual image from the cable headend is displayed on television receiver 30 during ICI” (Grossman 3:53-55).

Also note, the Grossman et al. reference discloses “[i]n addition to receiving [downloading] a constant stream of changing images and displaying a current image, the method of the present invention can receive and store a number of images in RAM 14 for access and display at a later time” (Grossman 8:21-25). However, the Grossman et al. reference does not specifically disclose downloading periodically and downloading according to user profile information. Now note the Tsuria reference that also discloses the display of advertisement messages during the changing of channels. The claimed “periodically downloading from a server” is met by “advertisements may be periodically downloaded from CATV source [server] 15” (Tsuria 4:20-21). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. downloading of visual images from a server with the Tsuria periodically downloading data sets from a server for the purpose of providing a method of scheduling downloading of data sets that provides updating of visual images while alleviating the system load of constantly downloading visual images for display. Further note the Picco et al. reference that discloses a system and method for inserting local content into programming content. The claimed “downloading from a server selected data sets according to user profile information” is met by “the pieces of local content downloaded to the set-top box may have a plurality of different content

Art Unit: 2617

profiles and only the pieces of local content with content profiles that match some predetermined criteria [such as user preferences] stored in the set-top box are stored in the set-top box” (Picco 8:10-15; 6:23-34). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. downloading of advertisements with the Picco et al. downloading according to user profile for the purpose of allowing advertisers to be able to more effectively reach viewers who are most likely to be interested in their product often at a lower total cost since the advertiser does not have to purchase the rights to advertise in the entire market (Picco 2:62-67). The Grossman et al. reference also discloses advertisement interactivity wherein “the header information associated with an image can include...identification information. The identification information can include telephone, address, internet address, web page address... Additionally, the identification information can be stored at cable headend 12, at a predetermined internet address or by a company providing the optical disk or magnetic tape containing the advertising information to the cable headend 12 for later access by the user” (Grossman et al. 7:43-67). However, the Grossman et al. reference does not specifically disclose an interactive session and delaying the display of the data stream information from the user until termination of the interactive session or expiration of a predetermined period of inactivity by the user. Now note the Howe et al. reference that discloses a system and method for providing television services. The Howe et al. reference discloses “the user has initiated an interactive transaction session with a remote host by selecting an interactive element associated with the first one of the information elements” wherein “Content Provider B 42 may decide to transmit a broadcast, such as a commercial, having

Art Unit: 2617

an associated interactive component or application... If the subscriber selects the displayed button, the STB 100 establishes a session with interactive server 5 and receives the interactive program or application associated with the broadcast” (Howe 8:6-27) and “[i]nteraction by subscriber 70 with STB 100 may be by an suitable means, but is preferably by conventional infrared (IR) remote control” (Howe 22:28-30). The claimed “in which case displaying the data stream information from the server is delayed until termination of the interactive session or expiration of a predetermined period of inactivity by the user” is met by the initiation of an interactive program advertisement application session resulting in the delaying of program display until “[t]he program or application is terminated, or when the user signals the set top box that viewing the second program or application is no longer desired” (Howe 4:15-5:14; 7:11-8:27). Note the Howe et al. discloses an “interactive transaction session” wherein interactive application includes interactively ordering services and/or programs (Howe 1:27-40). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. advertisements with interactivity capability with the Howe et al. interactive transaction session while the advertisement is being displayed for the purpose of allowing the user to interact with the advertisement while it is being displayed to increase the likelihood of a purchase by the user.

As to claim 2, the claimed wherein downloading the selected data sets comprises storing the selected data sets in buffer of a digital set top box. The Grossman et al. reference discloses cable subscriber systems 16a-n of cable television system 10 also include respective subscriber units 24a-n. Subscriber units 24a-n receive the television channels from cable headend 12, and, under the control of remote control device 20,

Art Unit: 2617

select a television channel from the received channels (Grossman et al. 3:20-25). The Grossman et al. reference also discloses the signals representative of the visual image transmitted from cable headend 12 can be analog or digital signals, although digital signals are preferred (Grossman et al. 6:55-57). The Grossman et al. reference also discloses if the visual image is to be displayed the signals representative of the image are applied from RAM 44 to graphics generator 68 by way of bus 66 to be formatted for display on television receiver 30. Although the signals representative of the image are preferably stored in RAM 44 in this manner for later display, the signals can be immediately displayed when they are received by tuner 72 in an alternate embodiment of the invention (Grossman et al. 7:5-12).

As to claim 3, the claimed wherein initiation of the first switching event comprises receiving at the digital set top box a signal from a television remote control device to switch channels. The Grossman et al. reference discloses in the method of the present invention a subscriber unit such as subscriber unit 24a displays the visual image received from cable headend 12 on television receiver 30 when a user of subscriber unit 24a changes channels using remote control device 20 (Grossman et al. 3:40-44).

As to claim 7, the claimed “wherein the first information element comprises data associated with the data stream information from the server.” Note the Grossman et al. reference discloses “advertising information for display of a visual image on television receiver 30 from cable headend 12 by way of transmission cable 14. The advertising information from cable headend 12 can be any information of any commercial value...” (Grossman 3:31-45). However, the Grossman et al. reference does not specifically disclose the advertising information (information element) comprising data associated

Art Unit: 2617

with the data stream information from the server. Now note the Tsuria reference that providing advertisements associated with the data stream information (Tsuria 2:1-4). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. advertisements with the Tsuria information message associated with the data stream for the purpose of providing advertisements to a viewer that is more likely suited to their current mood in order to increase the effect of the advertisement.

As to claim 8, please see rejection of claim 23.

As to claim 24, please see rejection of claim 23.

As to claims 25 and 26, the claimed "wherein the server is further configured to store the user profile information" Note the Grossman et al. and Picco et al. reference discloses the storage of user profile information at the set top box as discussed in the rejection of claim 31. Also note the Picco et al. reference further discloses "wherein the server is further configured to store the user profile information," the user profile data is transmitted to the system operator at some predetermined interval (Picco et al. 10:57-58), a copy of the user profile is stored both on the set top box and head end. The claimed "wherein the user profile information is stored in a data source accessible by the server" is met by the storage Agent 150 [accessible data store unit] that stores the profile information received as illustrated in Figure 4. Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. and Picco et al. combination teaching the use of a user profile with the Picco et al. storage of the user profile information at a server or data store unit accessible by the server for the purpose of enticing advertisers to

Art Unit: 2617

provide advertisements thus increases the program providers revenue and tailoring advertisements for transmission (Picco 7:9-32).

As to claim 27, note the Grossman et al. and Picco et al. combination discloses the storage of user profile information in a data store unit accessible by the server as discussed in the rejection of claims 37-38. However, the Grossman et al. and Picco et al. combination is silent as the storage of data stream information. Nevertheless, the examiner gives Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art to store programming in a data source so that it may be readily available for broadcast and to facilitate scheduling of programming. Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. and Picco et al. accessible data unit storing profile information accordingly for the purpose of providing programming readily accessible by the headend for broadcasting in a well known manner.

As to claim 29, the claimed wherein the user profile information is based on one or more of: the user's television viewing habits, the user's purchasing habits, and the user's use of one or more television services. The Grossman et al. reference discloses a method for displaying interchannel messages. However, the Grossman et al. reference does not disclose the use of profile information. The Picco et al. reference discloses targeting advertisements using profile information where in accumulating additional user preference data, the set-top box may accumulate data about when the user saw which programs and how many times the user watched a particular program (Picco et al. 11:9-13). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al.

Art Unit: 2617

interchannel messages with the Picco et al. targeted advertisements and monitoring of viewing habits for the purpose of enabling the targeting of interchannel advertisements to a user so that user may view messages of interest.

As to claim 30, the claimed “wherein the information elements comprise one or more of: advertisement, information regarding the data stream information, information regarding a television program, information regarding a television channel, personal information regarding the user, a segment of the data stream information, or local or regional information” is met by the advertising information from cable headend 12 can be any information of any commercial value, such as a corporate logo, a trademark or a textual message. The advertising information can also be, for example, public service messages such as warnings against smoking, warnings against drinking while pregnant or reminders to immunize children. In the method of the present invention a subscriber unit such as subscriber unit 24a displays the visual image received from cable headend 12 on television receiver 30 when a user of subscriber unit 24a changes channels using remote control device 20 (Grossman et al. 3:35-45).

As to claim 31, note the Grossman et al. reference that discloses a method for transmitting and displaying an interchannel interval image in a cable system. The claimed “a server configured to provide a data stream transmission” is met by “a cable system including a cable headend (server) having a plurality of cable channels and a subscriber unit with a video display, a receiver for receiving the cable channels and applying the selected cable channel to the video display in order to display an image” (Grossman 2:24-30). The Grossman et al. reference also discloses a “digital set top box” (Grossman 6:8-11; 6:55-57) configured to “download from the server selected data sets”

Art Unit: 2617

wherein “[t]he visual image transmitted from cable headend [server] 12 preferably resides in RAM 44 of subscriber unit 24a. It is stored [downloaded] in RAM 44 by microprocessor 60” (Grossman 6:33-36) “the selected data sets being included within the data stream” (Grossman 6:41-57). The claimed selected data sets “representing information elements for display to a user during switching events” and “display a first one of the information elements in response to initiation of a first switching event” is met by “subscriber unit 24a displays the visual image received from cable headend 12 on television receiver 30 when a user of subscriber unit 24a changes channels using remote control device 20” (Grossman 3:41-45) wherein the channel change (first switching event) is “characterized by unavailability of information from the server for display” (Grossman 3:47-55). The claimed “discontinue the display of the first one of the information elements and displaying the data stream information from the server when it becomes available for such display” is met by “the visual image from the cable headend is displayed on television receiver 30 during ICI” (Grossman 3:53-55). Also note, the Grossman et al. reference discloses “[i]n addition to receiving [downloading] a constant stream of changing images and displaying a current image, the method of the present invention can receive and store a number of images in RAM 14 for access and display at a later time” (Grossman 8:21-25). However, the Grossman et al. reference does not specifically disclose downloading periodically and downloading according to user profile information. Now note the Tsuria reference that also discloses the display of advertisement messages during the changing of channels. The claimed “periodically download from the server” is met by “advertisements may be periodically downloaded from CATV source [server] 15” (Tsuria 4:20-21). Therefore, the examiner submits that it

Art Unit: 2617

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. downloading of visual images from a server with the Tsuria periodically downloading data sets from a server for the purpose of providing a method of scheduling downloading of data sets that provides updating of visual images while alleviating the system load of constantly downloading visual images for display. Further note the Picco et al. reference that discloses a system and method for inserting local content into programming content. The claimed "download from the server selected data sets according to user profile information" is met by "the pieces of local content [advertisements] downloaded to the set-top box may have a plurality of different content profiles and only the pieces of local content with content profiles that match some predetermined criteria [such as user preferences] stored in the set-top box are stored in the set-top box" (Picco 8:10-15; 6:23-34). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. downloading of advertisements with the Picco et al. downloading according to user profile for the purpose of allowing advertisers to be able to more effectively reach viewers who are most likely to be interested in their product often at a lower total cost since the advertiser does not have to purchase the rights to advertise in the entire market (Picco 2:62-67). The Grossman et al. reference also discloses advertisement interactivity wherein "the header information associated with an image can include...identification information. The identification information can include telephone, address, internet address, web page address...Additionally, the identification information can be stored at cable headend 12, at a predetermined internet address or by a company providing the optical disk or magnetic tape containing the

Art Unit: 2617

advertising information to the cable headend 12 for later access by the user” (Grossman et al. 7:43-67). However, the Grossman et al. reference does not specifically disclose an interactive session and delaying the display of the data stream information from the user until termination of the interactive session or expiration of a predetermined period of inactivity by the user. Now note the Howe et al. reference that discloses a system and method for providing television services. The Howe et al. reference discloses “the user has initiated an interactive transaction session with a remote host by selecting an interactive element associated with the first one of the information elements” wherein “Content Provider B 42 may decide to transmit a broadcast, such as a commercial, having an associated interactive component or application... If the subscriber selects the displayed button, the STB 100 establishes a session with interactive server 5 and receives the interactive program or application associated with the broadcast” (Howe 8:6-27) and “[i]nteraction by subscriber 70 with STB 100 may be by an suitable means, but is preferably by conventional infrared (IR) remote control” (Howe 22:28-30).

The claimed “in which case displaying the data stream information from the server is delayed until termination of the interactive session or expiration of a predetermined period of inactivity by the user” is met by the initiation of an interactive program advertisement application session resulting in the delaying of program display until “[t]he program or application is terminated, or when the user signals the set top box that viewing the second program or application is no longer desired” (Howe 4:15-5:14; 7:11-8:27). Note the Howe et al. discloses an “interactive transaction session” wherein interactive application includes interactively ordering services and/or programs (Howe 1:27-40). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of

Art Unit: 2617

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. advertisements with interactivity capability with the Howe et al. interactive transaction session while the advertisement is being displayed for the purpose of allowing the user to interact with the advertisement while it is being displayed to increase the likelihood of a purchase by the user.

As to claim 34, please see rejection of claim 31.

As to claim 35, the claimed “wherein the information elements comprise one or more of: advertisement, information regarding the data stream information, information regarding a television program, information regarding a television channel, personal information regarding the user, a segment of the data stream information, or local or regional information” is met by the advertisements as discussed in the rejection of claim 31 and “the advertising information from cable headend 12 can be any information of any commercial value, such as a corporate logo, a trademark or a textual message. The advertising information can also be, for example, public service messages such as warnings against smoking, warnings against drinking while pregnant or reminders to immunize children. In the method of the present invention a subscriber unit such as subscriber unit 24a displays the visual image received from cable headend 12 on television receiver 30 when a user of subscriber unit 24a changes channels using remote control device 20” (Grossman et al. 3:35-45).

As to claim 36, the claimed “wherein the digital set top box is further configured to store the user profile information” is met by that discussed in the rejection of claim 31, wherein predetermined criteria such as user preferences are stored in the set-top box are stored in the set-top box (Picco 8:10-15; 6:23-34).

Art Unit: 2617

As to claims 37 and 38, the claimed “wherein the server is further configured to store the user profile information” Note the Grossman et al. and Picco et al. reference discloses the storage of user profile information at the set top box as discussed in the rejection of claim 31. Also note the Picco et al. reference further discloses “wherein the server is further configured to store the user profile information,” the user profile data is transmitted to the system operator at some predetermined interval (Picco et al. 10:57-58), a copy of the user profile is stored both on the set top box and head end. The claimed “further comprising a data store unit accessible by the server and configured to store the user profile information” is met by the storage Agent 150 [accessible data store unit] that stores the profile information received as illustrated in Figure 4. Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. and Picco et al. combination teaching the use of a user profile with the Picco et al. storage of the user profile information at a server or data store unit accessible by the server for the purpose of enticing advertisers to provide advertisements thus increases the program providers revenue and tailoring advertisements for transmission (Picco 7:9-32).

As to claim 39, note the Grossman et al. and Picco et al. combination discloses the storage of user profile information in a data store unit accessible by the server as discussed in the rejection of claims 37-38. However, the Grossman et al. and Picco et al. combination is silent as the storage of data stream information. Nevertheless, the examiner gives Official Notice that it is notoriously well known in the art to store programming in a data source so that it may be readily available for broadcast and to facilitate scheduling of programming. Therefore, the examiner submits that it would

Art Unit: 2617

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. and Picco et al. accessible data unit storing profile information accordingly for the purpose of providing programming readily accessible by the headend for broadcasting in a well known manner.

4. Claims 5, 32, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grossman et al. (US 5,907,321) in further view of Tsuria (US 5,786,845), Picco et al. (US 6,029,045), Howe et al. (US 5,892,508), and Nathan et al. (US 6,182,126)..

As to claim 5, the claimed wherein downloading the selected data sets comprises storing those of the selected data sets associated with the first information element in a buffer of a digital set top box and storing others of the selected data sets associated with others of the information elements in a memory of the digital set top box, wherein corresponding ones of the others of the selected data sets stored in the memory of the digital set top box replace those of the selected data in the buffer of the digital set top box once the first information element is displayed. The Grossman et al. reference discloses alternately, each of the images can be transmitted at the beginning of its period, stored for the duration of the period and written over by the next image at the beginning of the next period. In these embodiments, the user views whichever image is current when the channel is changed (Grossman et al. 8:6-10). The Grossman et al. reference also discloses in addition to receiving to receiving a constant stream of changing images and displaying a current image, the method of the present invention can receive and store a number of images in RAM 44 for access and display at a later time (Grossman et al. 8:21-24). However, the Grossman et al. reference does not specifically disclose storing first information element in a buffer and others in a memory wherein corresponding ones of

Art Unit: 2617

the others of the selected data sets stored in the memory of the digital set top box replace those of the selected data in the buffer of the digital set top box once the first information element is displayed. The Nathan et al. reference discloses button (1038) allows ordering of the selection which is then downloaded according to the above-described mode (Nathan et al. 6:66-67). The Nathan et al. reference also discloses a SPM module allows the system to manage the musical song or video selections in the queue for their playback in the order of selection (Nathan et al. 8:22-24). The Nathan et al. reference also discloses audio and display buffers (Nathan et al.; Figure 2 "110,111"). The Nathan et al. reference discloses when the selection has been reproduced in its entirety, it is removed from the queue file and the system checks if there are others in the queue file. If there is another, the system immediately starts to play the selection (Nathan et al. 9:54-57). Accordingly, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. storing of interchannel messages with the Nathan et al. queue using a memory and buffer for the purpose of displaying interchannel messages in order of receipt and a method for memory management so as to ensure the proper flow of data for display.

As to claim 32, the claimed wherein the digital set top box includes both a buffer and a memory and is configured to store those of the selected data sets representing a first one of the information elements in the buffer and others of the selected data sets representing other information elements in the memory. The Grossman et al. reference discloses alternately, each of the images can be transmitted at the beginning of its period, stored for the duration of the period and written over by the next image at the beginning of the next period. In these embodiments, the user views whichever image is current

Art Unit: 2617

when the channel is changed (Grossman et al. 8:6-10). The Grossman et al. reference also discloses in addition to receiving to receiving a constant stream of changing images and displaying a current image, the method of the present invention can receive and store a number of images in RAM 44 for access and display at a later time (Grossman et al. 8:21-24). However, the Grossman et al. reference does not specifically disclose storing first information element in a buffer and others in a memory wherein corresponding ones of the others of the selected data sets stored in the memory of the digital set top box replace those of the selected data in the buffer of the digital set top box once the first information element is displayed. The Nathan et al. reference discloses button (1038) allows ordering of the selection which is then downloaded according to the above-described mode (Nathan et al. 6:66-67). The Nathan et al. reference also discloses a SPM module allows the system to manage the musical song or video selections in the queue for their playback in the order of selection (Nathan et al. 8:22-24). The Nathan et al. reference also discloses audio and display buffers (Nathan et al.; Figure 2 "110,111"). The Nathan et al. reference discloses when the selection has been reproduced in its entirety, it is removed from the queue file and the system checks if there are others in the queue file. If there is another, the system immediately starts to play the selection (Nathan et al. 9:54-57). Accordingly, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. storing of interchannel messages with the Nathan et al. queue using a memory and buffer for the purpose of displaying interchannel messages in order of receipt and a method for memory management.

Art Unit: 2617

As to claim 33, the claimed wherein the digital set top box is further configured to replace those of the selected data sets representing the first one of the information elements in the buffer with at least some of the others of the selected data sets representing other information elements in the memory after displaying the first information element. Please see rejection of claim 32.

5. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grossman et al. (US 5,907,321) in further view of Tsuria (US 5,786,845), Picco et al. (US 6,029,045), Howe et al. (US 5,892,508), and Kitsukawa et al. (US 6,282,713 B1).

As to claim 28, the claimed wherein the remote host comprises an Internet host and the interactive transaction session comprises an electronic shopping transaction. Note the Grossman et al. and Howe et al. combination as discussed in the rejection of claim 23 teaches “the interactive transaction session comprises an electronic shopping transaction” and access of a remote server over a network. However, the Grossman et al. and Howe et al. combination does not specifically disclose an Internet host. The Kitsukawa et al. reference discloses in an alternate embodiment, the coupon information is redeemed by the viewer via an electronic link established with a merchandise retailer or dealer, wherein the electronic link allows the merchandise retailer to read the stored coupon information from the recording medium of the viewer at such time as the viewer electronically orders or purchases merchandise (Kitsukawa et al. 12:1-7). The Kitsukawa et al. reference also discloses in one embodiment, the coupon information may comprise electronic catalogs that contain information on additional products and service offered by the particular manufacturer and dealer and service provider, electronic links to product manufacturers and dealers that comprise electronic mail and voice messaging links, and

Art Unit: 2617

electronic links over the Internet to the Web pages of product manufacturers and dealers, but the embodiment is not so limited (Kitsukawa et al. 13:23-31). Therefore, the examiner submits that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Grossman et al. and Howe et al. interchannel interactive advertising with the Kitsukawa et al. electronic transaction over the Internet for the purpose of providing the user the capability of purchasing an advertised product immediately and to increase sales of an advertised product or service over a the Internet, a well known and readily accessible network for facilitating communication of data.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johnny Ma whose telephone number is (571) 272-7351. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 2617

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